

2020 CONSERVATION DISTRICT INNOVATION GRANTS			
Conservation District	Grant Award	Project Title	Description
Berkshire Conservation District	\$20,000	Nutrient Management Initiative	The Berkshire Conservation District will be providing educational materials and programs to landowners about existing statutory nutrient regulations, which should help reduce excess nutrients washing into neighboring wetlands from lawns, pasture, and farmland within Berkshire County.
Franklin Conservation District	\$42,000	Support services for NRCS programs and outreach to towns	The Franklin Conservation District proposes to focus on actively supporting the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) by delivering coordinated services intended to benefit the land, soil, water, forest, farm, and related natural resources across the region. This will be accomplished through direct outreach across various constituencies, including a focus on farmers, forest owners and other key landowners.
Hampden/Hampshire Conservation District	\$42,000	Creating Community Wide Educational and Technical Solutions to Mitigate Impacts on Soil and Water due to Changing Climate Conditions	The District's education programs will focus on mitigating impacts to water and soil resources resulting from our changing climate. The district will develop a library of education materials, provide workshops and discussion groups designed to inform and engage adult residents, sponsor workshops for farmers offering techniques and training in sustainable agricultural practices such as cover crops and no-till planting, and do the initial development of a no-till equipment demo rental program for farmers in both counties.
Middlesex Conservation District	\$42,000	Farm Manure Waste Stream Recycling	The project will categorize and quantify agricultural waste in Middlesex County and propose solutions for economic recycling of excess or problematic wastes in order to conserve critical natural resources, enhance soil, decrease nutrient runoff, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Plymouth Conservation District	\$42,000	Small Farm Manure Management Education & Research	The Small Farm Manure Management Education & Research Project will conduct a comprehensive research survey of the 28 communities in Plymouth County. The data collected will be used to develop a database of livestock related animal health regulations as well as the number and type of small farms within each town. Through workshops, the project will provide outreach and education on the importance of manure management plans for farm operations.

Worcester County Conservation District (WCCD)	\$42,000	Healthy Soils Initiative	WCCD will provide technical assistance, outreach and education programs to Worcester County landowners to help them maintain soil health and protect water quality. The District will also develop conservation plans for farms with a special focus on urban soils and agriculture, and identify and distribute relevant educational materials emphasizing soil health for use in schools.
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